



For Immediate Release

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Photos and full bios attached

**Gov.-elect Cox and Lt. Gov.-elect Henderson
announce additional cabinet and senior staff positions**

SALT LAKE CITY (Dec. 21, 2020) — Gov.-elect Spencer Cox and Lt. Gov.-elect Deidre Henderson announced 19 key roles in their new administration. Unless otherwise noted, appointees will require confirmation of the Utah Senate.

“After a thorough interview process, I’m convinced each of these candidates will serve the citizens of Utah exceptionally well,” Cox said. “Each has impeccable qualifications, brings fresh ideas and, most importantly, is devoted to public service. We’re lucky to have such brilliant minds willing to serve the public.”

Cabinet and senior staff appointees bring both extensive private and public sector expertise, and hail from all parts of the state, reflecting Cox’s commitment to represent all of Utah. Nominees include:

Craig Buttars, who has served as Executive for Cache County for the past six years, has been nominated as commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food. He also served in the Utah House of Representatives from 1997 to 2006.

Sanpete County Sheriff Brian Nielson, who has served as sheriff for the past 10 years, has been named executive director of the Department of Corrections.

Health care administrator and current mayor of St. George Jon Pike has been named as commissioner of the Utah Insurance Department.

Another elected official, Cedar Hills Mayor Jenney Rees, has been tapped to serve as executive director of the Department of Administrative Services.

Margaret Busse, a social impact advisor, adjunct professor at Brigham Young University and former associate director of Social Enterprise Initiative at Harvard Business School, has been nominated to lead the Department of Commerce.

Tracy Gruber, currently the director of the Office of Child Care and senior advisor for the Intergenerational Poverty Initiative, has been named executive director of the Utah Department of Human Services.

Casey Cameron, who is currently serving as interim director of the Utah Department of Workforce Services, has been nominated as the permanent DWS executive director. She replaces Jon Pierpont, who Cox tapped to be his chief of staff.

Rich Saunders, who has been interim executive director of the Department of Health since September, has been named as the permanent executive director.

In addition to cabinet positions, four individuals will take on new roles that do not require Senate approval.

Nubia Peña, who is currently director of the Division of Multicultural Affairs, will take on a concurrent role as senior advisor on Equity and Opportunity.

Thom Carter, the current executive director of the Utah Clean Air Partnership (UCAIR), has been named as the executive director of the Governor's Office of Energy Development and energy advisor.

Cox's current Chief of Staff Kirsten Rappleye will shift to serve as director of First Lady Initiatives for First Lady Abby Cox.

Former director of business development for Boys & Girls Club of America Shelly Smith has been appointed as director of Boards and Commissions.

In addition, seven current department heads will retain their positions: Commissioner Jess Anderson, who heads the Department of Public Safety; Carlos Braceras, who has led the Utah Department of Transportation since 2013; Gary Harter, executive director of the Utah

Department of Veterans and Military Affairs; Jill Remington Love, executive director of the Department of Heritage and Arts; Utah Labor Commissioner Jaceson Maughan; Ed Leary, commissioner of the Utah Department of Financial Institutions; and Brian Steed, executive director of the Department of Natural Resources.

Cox and Henderson, along with other statewide elected officials, will be formally sworn in on Inauguration Day, Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

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Cabinet and Staff Appointments

(in alphabetical order)

Note: Appointments require Senate approval unless otherwise noted

Dec. 21, 2020



Jess Anderson, Commissioner of Public Safety

Gov. Gary R. Herbert appointed Jess Anderson to serve in his cabinet as Utah's Commissioner of Public Safety in August 2018. Commissioner Anderson is responsible for the Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS), which consists of the Utah Highway Patrol, State Bureau of Investigation, State Crime Lab, Statewide Information and Analysis Center, Bureau of Criminal Identification, State Fire Marshal's Office, Division of Emergency Management, Peace Officer Standards and Training, Driver License Division and Highway Safety Division. Utah DPS provides statewide public safety services and employs 1,500 employees, of which 520 are sworn state law enforcement officers.

Anderson additionally serves as the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor and has extensive experience in state and local law enforcement and public safety services. During his more than 18 years at the Department of Public Safety, Utah Highway Patrol, Commissioner Anderson has served in various capacities including on patrol, bicycle squad, motor squad, Special Emergency Response Team, DUI squad, and as a member of executive protection. He has been promoted through all ranks of DPS during his career and served in key positions, including Major of the Utah Highway Patrol.

Anderson also served as the president of the National Governor's Security Association from 2009-2016.





Carlos Braceras, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Transportation


Carlos M. Braceras was appointed executive director of the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) by Gov. Gary Herbert on May 6, 2013. In this capacity, he is responsible for UDOT's more than 1,700 employees and the design, construction and maintenance of Utah's 6,000-mile system of roads and highways. He has recently launched a redefining of the Department's goals and mission and has overseen the completion of several massive highway projects like the Utah County I-15 Technology Corridor and I-15 Corridor Expansion (I-15 CORE) projects, Mountain View Corridor in west Salt Lake County, and Southern Parkway near St. George.



Braceras joined UDOT in 1986. Prior to being appointed as executive director, he served as deputy director for 12 years. Braceras has also served as the director of UDOT's Region Three Office, chief geotechnical engineer, chief value engineer, a member of the Legacy Parkway/I-15 North Project team and as a roadway design engineer. He was named the "1998 State of Utah Governor's Manager of the Year" and was the 1998 recipient of the "UDOT Leader of the Year" Award. Prior to joining UDOT, Braceras worked as a well-site geologist doing oil and gas exploration and development. Braceras is currently the Executive Board Chair for the Transportation Research Board, member of the board of directors and past-president of the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHTO), chair of the AASHTO Design Committee, past chair of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America, past president of the Western Association of State Highway Transportation Officials, past president of chair of the Center for Environmental Excellence Advisory Board, and past chair of Road Usage Charge (RUC) West.


Braceras received an undergraduate degree in Geology from the University of Vermont and an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Utah. He is a


	<p>registered professional engineer.</p> <p>Braceras moved to Utah in the summer of 1980 and instantly fell in love with the mountains and the people. Soon after he arrived, Braceras met his wife Laurie while both were working at Snowbird Ski Resort. In their free time, he and Laurie enjoy spending time in the Utah outdoors. Their favorite activities include skiing, bicycling, golfing, camping, windsurfing and sailing on the Great Salt Lake.</p>
	<p>Margaret Busse, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce</p> <p>Margaret Woolley Busse is a social impact and public policy advisor, currently working with two Utah based nonprofit organizations as well as a gubernatorial campaign. She also works as an adjunct faculty member for BYU's Political Science Department. Prior to this, Busse served for several years as the Associate Director of the Social Enterprise Initiative at Harvard Business School, where she worked on issues such as future of workforce, opportunity and prosperity for all, and educational improvement. Passionate about bringing people together around common sense public policy solutions, Busse pursued a 2018 bid for the State Senate in Massachusetts, where she ran as a Republican against the Democratic incumbent, an election that she ultimately lost, but was named one of six women to watch in Massachusetts politics by WGBH.</p> <p>Before her work at HBS, Busse played a key role in governing the town where she resided in Acton, Massachusetts. She served as the chairwoman of both the Acton Finance Committee and the Acton 2020 master plan committee. Busse's career has also included working as a strategy consultant to nonprofit organizations at the Bridgespan Group as well as spending several years at the U.S. Treasury Department. Busse holds a MBA from Harvard University, a master's degree in Public Policy from Brigham Young University and a bachelor's degree in both Public</p>

	<p>Policy and Economics from Brigham Young University, where she graduated cum laude and with university honors.</p> <p>Busse is a Utah native who grew up in Holladay and graduated from Olympus High School. She and her husband, Franz, have five children, ages 7 to 17, and love traveling, hiking and skiing together.</p>
	<p>Craig Buttars, Commissioner of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food</p> <p>Craig W. Buttars is currently serving as the Cache County Executive. Early in his married life he became involved in the Utah Farm Bureau and served there as the State Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee Chairman and later the Cache County Farm Bureau President. These experiences led to an opportunity to run for the state Legislature in 1996, at which time he was elected to represent Utah House District #3. He served in the State Legislature for 10 years, from 1997 to 2006. While in the Legislature, he chaired two House standing committees, the House Government Operations and Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment. He was a member of the Natural Resources and Environment Appropriations Committee for eight years.</p> <p>After his legislative service, he was elected to the Cache County Council representing the North District of Cache County. Buttars remained on the County Council from 2008 to 2014. He was elected Cache County Executive in 2014 and has been serving there since 2015.</p> <p>Buttars has been awarded the Legislative Distinguished Service Award by the Utah Farm Bureau as well as other awards from the Future Farmers of America, Boy Scouts of America and the Richmond Black and White Days.</p> <p>Buttars is a lifelong resident of Cache County. He attended Ricks College (BYU-I) and Bridgerland Area Vocational Center (Bridgerland Technical College). He spent the</p>

	<p>majority of his career as a dairy farmer prior to becoming County Executive at which time he sold the dairy operation to his brother and nephew. He lives in Smithfield with his wife Shara. They have three children and nine grandchildren.</p>
	<p>Casey Cameron, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Workforce Services</p> <p>Casey Cameron has served as a deputy director for the Department of Workforce Services since 2012. She has worked for the state of Utah for 21 years, serving in various capacities within Workforce Services. She has been instrumental in several significant departmental changes, such as helping to form the Eligibility Services and Workforce Development divisions.</p> <p>Her main responsibilities as a deputy director included overseeing the following divisions and programs: Unemployment Insurance, Eligibility Services, Human Resources, Housing and Community Development, Office of Child Care, Communications, Internal Audit, and the Refugee Services Office. Throughout her career, Cameron has held various management and training positions and worked closely with many federal and state partners.</p> <p>Cameron currently serves as the co-chair of the Intergenerational Poverty Commission and serves on the Shelter the Homeless and the Family Justice Center boards. She is a recipient of the 2018 Governor’s award for leadership, as well as the Governor’s award in the area of innovation and efficiency in 2010. Before her time with Workforce Services, Cameron held positions with the Salt Lake School District, Intermountain Healthcare and Utah Retirement Systems.</p> <p>Cameron is a graduate of the University of Utah with a bachelor’s degree in social and behavioral health. She lives in Cedar Hills, Utah, with her husband, Ian, where they are raising two amazing teenage boys. Cameron and her family</p>

	<p>enjoy playing sports, watching their boys play baseball, traveling, camping and providing service to their community.</p>
	<p>Thom Carter, Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Energy Development and Energy Advisor (does not require Senate approval)</p> <p>Thom Carter has a diverse policy background, having served as an elected official in New Jersey and worked all over the country on initiatives ranging from healthcare to transportation, to the environment. He has been in Utah for the last six years spending time on infrastructure and environmental issues – with the last three years leading the state’s premier air quality nonprofit, the Utah Clean Air Partnership (UCAIR).</p> <p>Carter grew up in the Northeast and went to Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. At UCAIR, Carter sits on the Board of Governors for the Salt Lake Chamber, the Governor’s Energy Advisory Council and co-chairs the Healthy Salt Lake Steering Committee. Carter was named a Utah Business Forty under 40 in 2019. Carter married the former Andrea Mayo in April of 2018. She gave birth to their first child, a son named Isaac, in October of 2019.</p>
	<p>Tracy Gruber, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Human Services</p> <p>Gruber is currently director of the Office of Child Care at the Utah Department of Workforce Services and Senior Advisor for the Intergenerational Poverty Initiative.</p> <p>She oversees the department’s program to assist families with their child care needs, ensuring quality child care for children between the ages of 0 and 17. As director, Gruber worked with community stakeholders and child care providers to better serve Utah families and increase efficiency. She is also the lead researcher on a statewide initiative to measurably</p>

	<p>reduce the incidence of children who remain in the cycle of poverty. This work includes establishing programs and policies within the department to achieve positive outcomes for families, including economic stability. In 2017, she was named as "Government Official of the Year" by Community Action Partnership of Utah. She currently serves as the chair of the National Association of State Child Care Administrators and represents Utah on the Education Commission of the States.</p> <p>Prior to joining DWS, Gruber was the senior policy analyst and director of state fiscal policy at Voices for Utah Children. Gruber's work experience also includes serving as an analyst in the Illinois Senate, overseeing a public employee retiree organization, and administering the Utah State Bar New Lawyer Training Program.</p> <p>Gruber received her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and her Law Degree from the Chicago-Kent School of Law. She and her husband Andrew are the proud parents of Max and Jack, both of whom are currently attending the University of Utah.</p>
	<p>Gary Harter, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs</p> <p>Gary Harter is the executive director of Utah's Department of Veterans and Military Affairs and has been an advisor to the governor for military and veterans' issues since 2013. The department focuses on ensuring veterans, military and their families are able to thrive in Utah and that military organizations and installations are successful in the accomplishment of their missions. The department is involved in programs focused on veterans' employment, education, healthcare, business mentorship, legal services, recognition and camaraderie. The department oversees four veterans nursing homes and the state veterans' cemetery.</p>

	<p>Prior to Harter's current duties, he worked in the Governor's Office of Economic Development as the managing director for the Business Outreach and International Trade Team. Harter originally joined the office in 2005 as the Defense and Homeland Security Cluster director, working closely with military leaders and installations across Utah and with the defense industry. Harter is a retired Army Colonel who spent 25 years on active duty, leaving service in October 2005. He served in command and staff positions from platoon to division to joint command throughout the United States and in Germany. His final assignment was as Commander, U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground.</p> <p>Harter is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor's degree in Science in Biology and the National Defense University and a master's degree in National Resource Strategy. He is an Eagle Scout and he has received the Governor's Award for Science and Technology, the Utah National Guard's Minuteman Award, Hill Air Force Base's Wingman Award and been inducted into the Dugway Proving Ground Hall of Fame.</p>
	<p>Ed Leary, Commissioner of the Utah Department of Financial Institutions</p> <p>G. Edward Leary was appointed commissioner of the Utah Department of Financial Institutions. He joined the department as an examiner and rose through the ranks, holding positions as an industry supervisor and Chief Examiner before his appointment as commissioner.</p> <p>In Utah, he serves as chairman of the Board of Financial Institutions, a trustee of the Utah Housing Corporation, and provides support to the Utah Money Management Council. Commissioner Leary has served as the chairman of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS), the national association of State Banking Supervisors. The commissioner has served on the Board of CSBS for numerous years, also as</p>

	<p>chairman of CSBS's Regulatory, Legislative, and Technology Committees. Currently, he is serving on the Regulatory Committee and on the FinTech Steering Group.</p> <p>He serves on the Board of Managers of the State Regulatory Registry (SRR), the entity that controls the National Multi-State Licensing System (NMLS), the online licensing system for state licensees that require registration. The NMLS originated to license all mortgage companies, all mortgage loan officers, and all mortgage servicers in the country and then expanded to include other state licenses. He is the past chairman of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council's (FFIEC) State Liaison Committee representing state banking commissioners. He has testified before both houses of the U.S. Congress on financial institution regulation and public policy issues. Commissioner Leary was recently appointed by the chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to serve on the Advisory Committee of State Regulators (ACSR). Under Commissioner Leary's leadership, the department became an accredited agency by CSBS and the National Association of State Chartered Credit Union Supervisors (NASCUS), fostered the development of the Industrial Bank industry in Utah and successfully introduced legislation reducing regulatory fees by 30 percent, as well as rewriting portions of Utah's Financial Institutions Act, facilitating interstate banking and branching.</p> <p>Commissioner Leary holds a B.S. in political science and an MBA from the University of Utah. He retired in 1995 as a captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve after serving almost 24 years. He is married to JoAnn. They have a blended family of nine children and 35 grandchildren.</p> <p>As of Sept. 30, 2020, Utah-chartered depository institutions had combined total assets of \$355 billion. Utah is the sixth largest in the nation in terms of total assets under supervision.</p>
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Jill Remington Love, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Heritage and Arts

Jill Remington Love has served the past four years as executive director of the Utah Department of Heritage and Arts for Gov. Gary Herbert.

She brings 20 plus years of public service experience to state government and has worked for Salt Lake City Mayors Ted Wilson, Palmer DePaulis and Ralph Becker. Most recently, Jill served in Mayor Ralph Becker's cabinet as director of Community and Economic Development. In this role, she was responsible for planning, housing and neighborhood development, the Salt Lake City Arts Council and economic development for Salt Lake City. Love also served 12 years on the Salt Lake City Council. While serving in this capacity, she was elected to council leadership a number of times and served as the president of the Utah League of Cities and Towns.

In addition to her public sector experience, Love has five years of experience with communication and advertising. She is the recent recipient of the 2015 Eleanor Roosevelt Award from the Democratic Party, and the Alumni Achievement Award from the Department of Communications at the University of Utah (2012).

Love has a B.S. in Communications and an MPA from the University of Utah. She is married to Perrin Love, and they have three children: Robert, Elizabeth and Catherine.



Jaceson Maughan, Commissioner for the Utah Labor Commission

Jaceson Maughan has been reappointed to serve as the commissioner for the Utah Labor Commission, a role he has served in since 2016. Before his appointment as commissioner by Gov. Gary Herbert, Maughan served as deputy commissioner and general counsel for the Labor Commission. Prior to joining the Labor Commission, Maughan worked as legal counsel for the Department of Workforce Services. He also worked as an assistant attorney general with the Utah Attorney General's Office, where he represented the State of Utah in the recovery of Medicaid funds, condemnation actions and child support matters.

During his career, Maughan also worked as an associate for the law firms Bostwick & Price, PC, and Olsen, Skoubye, and Nelson, LLC, where his practice focused primarily on construction litigation and workplace health and safety issues. Maughan began his career with the State of Utah in 1998 as a youth counselor with the Division of Juvenile Justice Services.

Maughan was raised in Wellsville, Utah. He attended Utah State University, earning an undergraduate and a master's degree in U.S. History. He is a graduate of the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah and is a member of the Utah State Bar. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Clinton, Utah, and are the proud parents of three children.



Brian Nielson, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Corrections

Brian Nielson has been appointed to serve as executive director of the Utah Department of Corrections. Sanpete County voters elected Brian Nielson to serve as Sheriff in 2010, a position in which he served for 10 years.

Prior to being elected sheriff, Nielson served in a variety of other law enforcement roles including juvenile probation officer, police officer, wildlife conservation officer and school resource officer.

Nielson earned his associates degree from Snow College, bachelor's degree from Utah State University and Masters of Science in Management and Leadership from Western Governors University. Nielson also completed the Law Enforcement Leadership program at the University of Utah. Nielson is a Utah native along with his wife and three boys.



Nubia Peña, Senior Advisor on Equity and Opportunity and Director of the Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs
(does not require Senate approval)

Nubia Peña is the director for the Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs whose mission is to promote an inclusive climate for Utah's growing diverse community through training, outreach and youth leadership development. Peña spent the past 15 years working as a community organizer, advocate and ally for systematically marginalized populations. She also facilitates dialogues among local and national leaders on complex topics of inclusion and racial justice, working to create equitable access in services and resources for historically disenfranchised communities. Peña also designs and implements various workshops on creating culturally relevant, and gender-specific programming, specifically when working with youth and adolescents.

	<p>Peña is a former member of the Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys where she advocated for youth rights during detention and delinquency proceedings. She is certified by the National Juvenile Defender Center as a Juvenile Training Immersion Program facilitator. In addition, Peña is a national consultant dedicated to bringing awareness to intersections of trauma and the School-to-Prison Pipeline, an epidemic that targets our most vulnerable youth by streamlining them into the juvenile justice system. She also serves as adjunct faculty at the University of Utah's S.J. Quinney College of Law.</p> <p>Peña has actively sought to bring awareness to issues of violence and systemic oppression through her professional endeavors and personal faith-based initiatives. She has a decade of experience assisting survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking and violent crimes as a law enforcement victim advocate. Since 2007, Peña has served as the training and prevention education specialist at the Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault (UCASA), where she developed trainings on youth advocacy for trafficked survivors, social justice in prevention efforts, and sexual harassment in the #MeToo era. In addition, she is also the founder and director of Royalty Rising Youth Ministry, a culturally relevant and gender specific outreach initiative for systematically marginalized young adults.</p> <p>Peña received her J.D. from the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law in May 2016. During that year, she was selected as one of 25 law students in the nation to be recognized and highlighted for her social justice activism in the National Jurist, a leading news source in legal education. She was also selected as the recipient of the National Juvenile Justice Network 2019 Emerging Leader Award due to her longstanding commitment to youth rights, empowerment, and leadership development. Peña was named as one of Utah Business Magazine's 2020 40 Under 40 award recipients and recognized among the 2020 Heroes for Utah Philanthropy Day.</p>
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Jon Pike, Commissioner of the Utah Insurance Department

Jon Pike was raised in Salt Lake City and has worked in several positions with Intermountain Healthcare since 1990 — and since 1995 in St. George. He currently works as the southwest Utah operations director for SelectHealth, the health insurance division of Intermountain Healthcare. Pike's career has focused on physician relations and contracting, broker relations, sales management, and government and community liaison. He has been a member of the National Association of Healthcare Underwriters and the Utah Association of Healthcare Underwriters for many years.

In 2007, Pike was elected to the St. George City Council and in 2013 he was elected mayor of St. George. He serves on the boards of Dixie State University, Dixie Technology College, the Washington County Water Conservancy District, Encircle — St. George, and previously as the president of the Utah League of Cities and Towns. He has served as the chair of the Rural Matters group for the Cox-Henderson Transition Team.

Pike received a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Utah and an MBA from Westminster College. Pike loves singing, playing the piano, organ, and guitar, as well as water and snow skiing, motorcycling and walking or biking on St. George's many trails. He and his wife Kristy have five children and four grandchildren.



Kirsten Rappleye, Director of First Lady Initiatives (does not require Senate approval)

Kirsten Rappleye will be appointed as director of First Lady initiatives. In her role, she will oversee the development and execution of Utah First Lady Abby Cox's initiatives.

Prior to this appointment Rappleye served as chief of staff to then Lt. Gov. Spencer J. Cox, coordinating his work on more than 30 boards and commissions and policy initiatives related to suicide prevention, mental health, homelessness, women's leadership, opioid abuse prevention, rural economic development, volunteerism, STEM education and legislative relations.


Rappleye has served in various roles on Utah's capitol hill since 2012, including as public information officer to Gov. Gary R. Herbert and majority assistant to the Utah State Senate.





Jenney Rees, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Administrative Services

Jenney Rees currently serves as the mayor of Cedar Hills, a position to which she was elected in 2017 after having served as a member of the city council for six years. In her role as mayor, she has served on the Joint Policy Advisory Committee and the Regional Growth Committee for the Wasatch Front Regional Council, the Legislative Policy Committee for the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Utah County Council of Governments, the Quality Growth Commission for the State of Utah, and on the Regional Planning Committee for Mountainland Association of Governments.

Before serving in public office, Rees was the chief of staff and the director of healthcare information systems for MediConnect Global, a healthcare information technology company servicing the legal, life insurance and health

	<p>insurance markets. She has also worked as the director of billing services for an Arizona physician’s organization and as the director of training for AdvancedMD, the first completely web-based practice management system. Rees holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Management and Master of Public Administration degree.</p>
	<p>Rich Saunders, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Health</p> <p>Richard Saunders is currently serving as the Interim Director of the Utah Department of Health (UDOH). In late March 2020, while the department was under enormous pressure from the COVID-19 pandemic, Saunders was asked to serve as its chief deputy. In this role, Saunders was instrumental in helping to lead the COVID-19 response. In August 2020, he was asked to serve as interim executive director.</p> <p>Saunders joined the UDOH in 2015 as a consultant in the Division of Medicaid and Health Financing. Nearly two years later, he accepted a director position over the department’s Office of Organizational Development and Performance Improvement. Under his leadership, this office took the lead role in the UDOH becoming an accredited public health department. During his tenure as director of Organizational Development and Performance Improvement, the department received two Operational Excellence awards from the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget.</p> <p>Prior to joining the UDOH, Saunders was an entrepreneur for 25 years with extensive experience in multiple verticals, and developed significant sales networks that included Target, Walmart, Toys R Us, AAFES, and QVC. He later co-founded a multi-million dollar construction company that grew to cover a national footprint with offices in Salt Lake City, St. George, Seattle and Idaho Falls. As this company’s president, he headed its executive leadership team, oversaw its accounting and legal departments, and led the company’s strategic planning efforts. These experiences, coupled with</p>

	<p>Saunders' ongoing passion for leadership knowledge, communications, and organizational health, led to the creation of a consulting service that has influenced companies in both the private and public sectors.</p> <p>Saunders enjoys volunteering and serving his community. His volunteer experience includes teaching groups throughout the Wasatch front as a Master Gardener, a suicide prevention trainer for youth and young adults with HOPE4UTAH, and serving within in various religious capacities including chairman of the Advisory Board of LDS Family Services; chairman of the Board of Education over Seminaries and Institutes; and chairman of Scout Relations.</p> <p>He received his education in communication and organizational studies from Utah Valley University and the University of California, Davis. He is married and the father of five children, four sons-in-law, and nine grandchildren.</p>
	<p>Shelly Smith, Director of Boards and Commissions (does not require Senate approval)</p> <p>Shelly Smith was born and raised in Ogden, Utah, and is the mother of two adult sons: Dallas and Ky. After raising her family, Smith attended Weber State University and received a business certificate from Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College. She re-entered the workforce in 2014 and developed a passion for development and fundraising for nonprofit organizations, establishing her current career in that sector.</p> <p>Smith enjoys engaging with her local community and has served in a variety of leadership roles in various organizations including the National Parent Teacher Association, Community Council, Ogden Breakfast Exchange Club, Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce, Davis Chamber of Commerce and Ogden Rotary Club.</p>

	<p>In her spare time, Smith is passionate about running and loves competing in marathons and ultra marathons. She also enjoys the outdoors, hiking, mountain biking along Utah's scenic trails, practicing yoga and reading. She is an avid sports fan and enjoys watching college football and traveling to watch her son play collegiate baseball.</p>
	<p>Brian Steed, Executive Director of Utah Department of Natural Resources</p> <p>Brian Steed was appointed DNR executive director in 2019 by Gov. Gary R. Herbert. He leads an agency of 1,300 employees from seven divisions, including Forestry, Fire and State Land; Oil, Gas and Mining; Parks and Recreation; Utah Geological Survey; Water Resources; Water Rights; and Wildlife Resources.</p> <p>Steed previously served in Washington, D.C. as the Bureau of Land Management's deputy director for policy and programs, exercising the authority of the director from 2017-2019. Before that, he served as chief of staff to Congressman Chris Stewart from 2013 to 2017. Steed has also served as the deputy county attorney for Iron County and taught political science and economics at Utah State University (USU).</p> <p>A native of Logan, Utah, Steed attended USU, where he earned both a bachelor's degree and a master's in political science. He also holds a Ph.D. in public policy with an emphasis in environmental policy from Indiana University Bloomington and a J.D. from the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah, with a certificate in natural resources and environmental law.</p> <p>Steed and his wife, Leslie, have three children. Among his many interests, he enjoys hiking, biking, skiing, fishing and doing almost anything else outdoors.</p>

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